



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

August 28, 2014

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway
Senate Education, Health and Environmental
Affairs Committee
2 West Wing, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Peter Hammen
Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Carter Conway and Chairman Hammen:

Thank you for your interest and the interest of your committees in the issue of foster care for medically fragile youth in Maryland. At the briefing on July 24, 2014, I indicated that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene would be reviewing the status and survey histories of all providers of this service in the state. I am writing to provide you with an update on this review.

At present, there are three licensed providers: Second Family, Inc., Total Quality Residential Services, Inc., and Center for Social Change, Inc. Our review includes the renewal surveys, complaints, and self-reported incidents for these facilities over the last several years. When completed, we expect to send you our findings including the relevant documentation.

In the meantime, the Department has received requests for some of these documents from the news media. We intend to provide these documents to you as we are releasing them. We will also make available to the public our findings and documents when available.

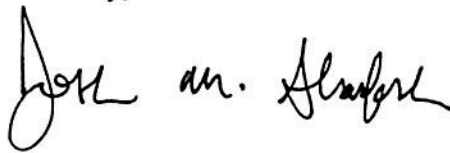
Attached are the renewal surveys from Second Family, Inc. for each of the past four years. The Department's oversight of Second Family, Inc., has included renewal surveys as well as investigations of complaints and the provider's self-reported incidents. As a result, the attached renewal surveys are only part of the documentation we are reviewing. The detail in the reports reflects the thoroughness of the survey process. Second Family provided a plan of correction that was accepted by the Office of Health Care Quality in response to each deficiency issued.

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway
The Honorable Peter Hammen
August 28, 2014
Page Two

The Department will continue its close oversight of this and other providers to protect the health and well-being of the children receiving services.

Dr. Tricia Nay, the executive director and acting medical director of the Office of Health Care Quality, is returning from medical leave within a few weeks. When our review is complete, we would like to meet with you to discuss its findings and next steps. In the meantime, please let us know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh M. Sharfstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" being more prominent.

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary

cc: Ted Dallas, Secretary
Department of Human Resources